

## Are there legitimate solicitors ?

Yes, remember the rules of solicitation and use common sense. There are many organizations that solicit money for legitimate charities, Fund raisers and those that have items for sale.

Legitimate solicitors do not mind lots of questions. There are several service organizations that solicit our support. They will generally be in pairs if going door-to-door. **Ask a solicitor for personal identification and/or business identification prior to continuing with any discussions or transaction. Ask for the phone number of the organization, the solicitor's supervisors name and phone number. A legitimate business will have this information with them and will gladly provide it to you.**

**Remember**, if you are not sure, call the Attorney General's consumer hotline or the Corvallis Police Department for information.

## What should I do if I need to raise money through soliciting ?

1. Call the Attorney General's hotline number and determine if you need to register with their office prior to conducting any solicitations.
2. Follow the 30 second rules listed in this brochure.
3. Have printed material available for consumers to examine.
4. List a phone number on the hand-out material so people may call you or the organization.
5. Do not use hard sales techniques. If a consumer says "no", walk away.
6. Be prepared and willing to answer a lot of questions.



## Solicitation In Corvallis



**Corvallis Police Department**  
**180 NW 5<sup>th</sup> St.**  
**Corvallis, OR 97330**  
**(541) 766-6924**

# What should I know about solicitations ?

**Oregon Law** requires door-to-door sales agents and telemarketer’s to tell consumers, in the first 30 seconds of a sales pitch, their name, the name of the company they represent and what they are selling and how much it costs. They must also ask consumers if they are interested in hearing a presentation.

**Door-to-door:** If consumers ask a sales person to leave at anytime during the presentation, they must do so immediately.

**Telemarketer’s:** If consumers tell a caller they are not interested, they must hang up immediately. If you tell a telemarketer not to call again, a second phone call from the same telemarketing company can cost the telemarketer up to \$25,000 in civil penalties.

**Mail:** Federal sweepstakes law states you do not have to send a company money to receive a prize.

## What is Solicitation ?

When someone contacts you attempting to get your business through a sweepstakes, a contest, items for sale or donations. These are people whom you did not contact first. They are contacting you.

## How am I contacted ?

By phone★ Tele-marketers  
★ Charities

By mail★ Sweepstakes  
★ Contests  
★ Business deals

Door-to-door★ Items for sale  
★ Home repair

## The Top 10 Fraud Prevention Tips

- ① **Be cautious of business deals, contests or sweepstakes offers either through the mail or over the telephone which require personal information, ie. name, SSN, credit card numbers, bank account numbers or money up front.**
- ② **Never buy anything over the phone** unless you initiate the call.
- ③ **Shop in your own backyard.** Decide what products you want and find through local merchants.
- ④ **Never make a buying decision based upon emotion.** Don’t let a sales person convince you to “do it for the children”.
- ⑤ **Before buying from a business, find out:** The age of the business, where it is located and for how long, check the Better Business Bureau or Attorney General’s Office for complaints and legitimacy of

business.

- ⑥ **Never buy anything from a door-to-door salesperson** (magazines, vacuum cleaners, cleaning products etc...)
- ⑦ **Never make a buying decision at the time of the sales pitch.** Have your own 3-day rule before buying. If the offer is good today, it will be good in 3 days.
- ⑧ **Before making a charitable contribution, ask for and review written financial reports of the charity to find out where your money is going.** Verify this information with your Secretary of State’s Office.
- ⑨ **Ask advice** from a friend or family member before deciding to buy something through a solicitor.
- ⑩ **The most successful fraud pitch in the United States today is: CONGRATULATIONS, YOU’VE WON! Don’t fall for it.**

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## Who do I call with questions ?

**Corvallis Police Department:**  
(541)757-6924

**Attorney General’s Consumer Hotline:**  
(503)378-4320  
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am to 12:00pm(noon)

**Attorney General false claims of non-profit:**  
(503)229-5725

